

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently amended) A machine for linearizing pieces of material comprising:

a plurality of pairs of saw blades that are spaced apart in the direction of travel of the material pieces with the saw blades of each pair being spaced apart and opposing each other;

a conveyor system of at least one chain, each said at least one chain having a plurality of pairs of teeth along its length with the two teeth of each pair being on opposite sides of said chain and opposing each other, and said plurality of pairs of teeth being spaced apart along the length of the chain and there being a space between adjacent pairs of teeth of the chain in which a piece of the material engaged by said adjacent pairs of teeth is carried by said chain with ends extending outwardly of the teeth of said adjacent paid of teeth, with each said tooth of each pair of teeth being of a generally trapezoidal shape, and wherein

the each said at least one conveyor system chain carries a piece of the material in the space between two adjacent pairs of said plurality of pairs of teeth to through the space between a said pair of said saw blades that cuts the extending ends of the material piece held between the adjacent pairs of teeth of the chain.

8. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein said conveyor system comprises a separate conveyor chain for each of said pairs of saw blades.

9. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein said teeth of a chain are of generally trapezoidal shape.

10. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 7 further comprising a belt above a conveyor chain that fits into the space between the teeth of each pair for engaging a piece of the material into the space between two adjacent pair of teeth.

11. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein said saw blades are radial blades.

12. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a belt above a conveyor chain for engaging a piece of the material into the space between two adjacent pair of teeth.

13. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 8 wherein the number of pairs of parallel saw blades increase in succession as the pieces of material are conveyed by said conveyor system in the direction of travel of said conveyor system.

14. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein the pieces of material are the endocarp of coconut.

15. (Previously presented) A machine for linearizing pieces of material comprising:
a plurality of pairs of parallel saw blades that are spaced apart along the direction of travel of the pieces being linearized;
a conveyor system of at least one chain to successively carry the pieces from one pair of said plurality of pairs of saw blades to the next pair;
each said conveyor system chain having a plurality of pairs of teeth that are spaced apart for holding a piece of the material in the space between adjacent pairs of teeth with ends of the

material piece extending over the edges of the chain and presenting the ends of the piece held generally transverse to the saw blades of a pair of such blades to cut the extending ends of the material piece, wherein the teeth of each said pair of teeth are parallel and spaced apart to form a channel therebetween; and

a belt over a conveyor chain that fits into the channel between successive pairs of teeth of the chain for engaging the material piece to hold it in the space between a pair of teeth.

16. (Previously presented) The machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein said belt is continuous.